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14. — *Hymns and Choirs: or, The Matter and the Manner of the Service of Song in the House of the Lord.* By AUSTIN PHELPS and EDWARDS A. PARK, Professors at Andover, and DANIEL L. FURBER, Pastor at Newton. Andover: Warren F. Draper. 1860. 12mo. pp. 425.

PROFESSORS PHELPS and PARK, as the editors of the "Sabbath Hymn-Book," have had their thoughts specially directed to the whole subject of Christian Hymnology, and in the first and second chapters of the volume before us — written by those gentlemen respectively — we have the matured results of their thought and experience. For the remaining chapter we are indebted to Mr. Furber. The first two chapters will have a peculiar charm for all who are professionally interested in hymnology, especially for the numerous class of men who have compiled hymn-books; and they show how industriously and lovingly the writers performed the previous labor of compilation, — how much of their best strength they bestowed where thousands of worshippers will be edified, without the slightest appreciation of the skill, study, and labor requisite in the construction of a really good hymn-book. But we doubt whether the larger public will care to follow the learned Professors through so many pages of detailed and elaborate criticism. The third chapter approaches much more nearly to the character of a popular essay, and contains many suggestions of prime importance with regard to "the service of song" in our churches; but even this is rendered less available than it might be for general use by frequent references to and illustrations from the "Sabbath Hymn-Book." In fine, the entire volume is not so much a general treatise on psalmody, as a companion-volume to that one collection of hymns. It contains, however, rich materials for a general treatise which is greatly needed, and we wish that the authors had merged their special purpose in the endeavor to supply that want.

15. — *The Works of FRANCIS BACON, Baron of Verulam, Viscount of St. Albans, and Lord High Chancellor of England.* Collected and edited by JAMES SPEDDING, M. A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, ROBERT LESLIE ELLIS, Late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and DOUGLAS DENON HEATH, Barrister-at-Law, Late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Volume XII., being Vol. II. of the Literary and Professional Works. Boston: Brown and Taggard. 1860. pp. 454.

THIS volume contains several of Bacon's Latin tracts, with translations, and the Additions and Corrections — many of them of great his-

torical importance — inserted by him in a manuscript copy of Camden's Annals. But the larger part of the volume consists of his "Essays." These Essays constitute in themselves, miscellaneous as they are, a by no means incomplete compend of practical ethics. The purest of all Bacon's writings in point of style, — a model of the best prose of the Elizabethan age, — they display the keenest insight into human nature and character, and the application of the highest philosophy to the conduct of life. They are a repertory, from which modern writers have drawn many of their richest thoughts; and, while in similar cases the streams are often more palatable than the fountain, in this no reader should fail to seek the fountain. We would again earnestly solicit attention to this, which promises to be in every sense the best, as it is derived from the only complete edition of Bacon's works. The best, we say; for we learn that many typographical errors, which escaped the vigilance of the English editors, are corrected in the American reprint.

16. — *Considerations on some of the Elements and Conditions of Social Welfare and Human Progress. Being Academic and Occasional Discourses, and other Pieces.* By C. S. HENRY, D. D. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 415.

THE papers contained in this volume were written independently of one another, at wide intervals of time, and on very different occasions. Yet they have a virtual unity in the patriotic purposes and aspirations which they all alike breathe; for, while we recognize in them the mature scholarship for which Dr. Henry has been long distinguished, they are even more prominently characterized by an anxious love of his country, solicitude for her true honor, and a profound sense of her needs and perils.

One somewhat singular phenomenon strikes us with regard to this book, namely, the growth of the author's style in qualities which are not wont to grow with added years, — in vivacity and fervor. He now writes — not, indeed, without the wisdom befitting his age — more like a young man than he did a quarter of a century ago. The first discourse in the volume is weighty in a double sense. It is sound, judicious, impressive; but it put us to sleep. Our somnolency was dissipated by the last — evidently just written — article, which is sprightly enough to quicken the pulse of the most phlegmatic reader. This article is an essay on the much mooted subject of "Politics and the Pulpit." Dr. Henry here maintains none of the hackneyed commonplaces about the independence of the pulpit and the rights of the clergy; but